



VirginiaGreenTravel.org

2013 Virginia Green Travel Star Awards Green Travel Star



Supporting Organization of the Year



Sandbridge Blue Realty Services

As a vacation rental management firm we find ourselves involved with an industry that does not immediately come to mind when considering lodging alternatives to the traveler, and certainly not top of the mind awareness when it comes to conservation efforts. While Hotels and Motels have a daily cleaning service and a somewhat captive audience to try and impose conservation measures the Vacation Rental industry is more more difficult to affect change in that we manage individually owned homes which are all unique.

Sandbridge Blue manages approximately 50 vacation rental properties and this year welcomed nearly 700 families to our properties. This allowed us nearly 700 opportunities to bring awareness to guests of their impact on the local environment.

Sandbridge Blue implemented the following measures to promote environmentally friendly practices in the tourism industry:

- We are among the first Vacation Rental companies in the country to go almost entirely paperless. We offer Electronic Rental Agreements (we do not mail paper copies, which eliminates time, paper, money, gas and work.)
- We e-mail the balance due notices and receipt of payment, rather than mailing those as well.
- We have converted to e-cards for holiday greetings rather than traditional paper cards.
- We e-mail check-in information to our guests eliminating the need to stop at our office on check in day. The guest receives detailed directions to the property in advance of their arrival so they can drive straight there.
- We are the only company in the area that has keyless entry into our homes. This saves the guest time, gas, and fighting traffic.
- We update all Online information, to eliminate paper to produce our annual Sandbridge Blue Vacation Home Brochure.
- We use "paperless" payroll to conserve paper for printing checks in our company. We either use direct deposit or offer a debit card for usage with our employees. We no longer print checks for company payroll.

- We give our guests a complimentary Sandbridge Blue Welcome Bag that doubles as a Thermal Grocery Tote that is made of recycled materials.
- Our Housekeeping department reuses our cleaning materials (rags), as we wash and reuse those items.
- We recycle and reuse our Housekeeping cleaning bottles (also the company we use for our chemicals does have a “Green Cleaning Line” that we are implementing 2014.)
- We provide both bed and bath linens to our guests at no additional charge. They are delivered by the cleaners with each turnover. There are no big trucks needed to pick up dirty linens or deliver the fresh ones. Our linens are cleaned with an “Ozone Technology Cleaning”, which uses less water and chemicals in each wash.
- Our “stained” lines and towels are donated to an animal shelter for their use rather than throw them away.
- We stock our homes with Biodegradable soaps and cleaners, in our “Starter pack” for the guests.

Visit Sandbridge Blue's Virginia Green profile at:

http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Portals/0/DEQ/PollutionPrevention/VirginiaGreen/sandbridge_blue_realty_services.pdf

Virginia Green is run through a partnership between:



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